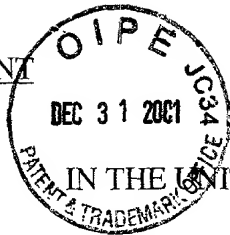


PATENT



Case Docket No.: PD-200305

Customer No.: 020991

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Steven Thompson et al.

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application Serial No.:09/975,051

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: October 11, 2001

For: A System and Method for Controlling
Interference Affecting Satellite Terminals
in a Satellite Communications Network by
Establishing and Using Virtual Cells which
are Independent of the Cells Formed by the
Spot Beams Generated by the Satellite

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as
filed:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 22 with the following new paragraph:

--A plurality of STs 106 can be present in each spot beam 108. As discussed in more detail below, the controller 110 of the NOCC 104 according to an embodiment of the present invention is capable of identifying and eliminating interference in the network 100 that is caused by, for example, a rogue ST as discussed in the background section above. However, unlike the conventional networks, the controller 110 is capable of deactivating STs 106 independently of the spot beams 108, cells or regions of the earth in which they reside. The controller 110 is capable of deactivating groups of the STs 106 based on parameters such as all or a portion of the uplink cell in which the group of STs 106 reside, all or a portion of the downlink cell in which the group of STs 106 reside, all STs 106 receiving a CONUS beam, a

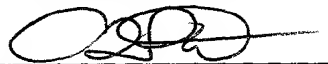
region of the earth dedicated to a particular satellite 102 in the network 100, a geographic region of the earth, a range of ST management destination subaddresses within a cell or microcell, a range of electronic serials numbers for the STs 106, by the serial numbers of suppliers of the STs 106, and any other suitable parameter, as discussed in more detail below.--

REMARKS

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested. Paragraph 22 is being replaced with the new paragraph indicated above to remove an erroneous reference to Fig. 3.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Craig L. Plastrik
Reg. No. 41,254

HUGHES ELECTRONICS CORPORATION

P.O. Box 956

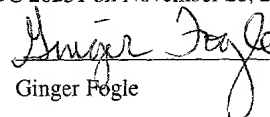
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Dated: 11/28, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 28, 2001.


Ginger Fogle

MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Paragraph 22 was amended by the above replacement paragraph as follows:

[As shown in Fig. 3, a] A plurality of STs 106 can be present in each spot beam 108. As discussed in more detail below, the controller 110 of the NOCC 104 according to an embodiment of the present invention is capable of identifying and eliminating interference in the network 100 that is caused by, for example, a rogue ST as discussed in the background section above. However, unlike the conventional networks, the controller 110 is capable of deactivating STs 106 independently of the spot beams 108, cells or regions of the earth in which they reside. The controller 110 is capable of deactivating groups of the STs 106 based on parameters such as all or a portion of the uplink cell in which the group of STs 106 reside, all or a portion of the downlink cell in which the group of STs 106 reside, all STs 106 receiving a CONUS beam, a region of the earth dedicated to a particular satellite 102 in the network 100, a geographic region of the earth, a range of ST management destination subaddresses within a cell or microcell, a range of electronic serials numbers for the STs 106, by the serial numbers of suppliers of the STs 106, and any other suitable parameter, as discussed in more detail below.